

THE
KAPPA
ALPHA

THETA

MAGAZINE

WINTER 2007-08

Timeless & Classic

Theta Friendships (p. 18)

Denim Daze (p. 25)

Founders Day (p. 27)



THE TRUE WORTH OF FRIENDS

Ordinarily, mail doesn't excite me. Ordinarily, my home mailbox is full of bills, credit card offers, and charitable solicitations. Ordinarily, I grumble mentally about the waste of paper and the waste of time to sort through everything, just to make sure there's nothing important hidden among the junk.

All that changes, though, in December. I love mail in December for one reason: holiday cards.

I love looking at the cards, whether they're elegant or amusing or incorporate a photograph. I love reading the cards, whether they're simply signed, include a short note, or enclose a form letter. I love deciding how to display them, and being cheered by them all month, and looking at them one last time before placing them in the recycling bin in January.

I love getting cards from friends whom I see frequently, from friends whom I don't see often enough, from friends with whom I keep in touch only through holiday cards.

That's really the point, isn't it, of holiday cards? Through them, we can keep in touch with friends. At summer camp, back in the day, I sang a song about the value of friendship, "Make new friends and keep the old./One is silver and the other, gold." Each December, the jumble of red, green, and white envelopes reminds me that friends are every bit as precious as those precious metals.

And Theta friendships are among the most precious of all. A former Fraternity president once wrote that "sisterhood is by choice," and I think that quote was in my head when I asked Jan Mathew, Delta/Illinois, a frequent contributor to *The Magazine*, to write the article that begins on page 18 of this issue.

I met Jan through Susan Holloway, Gamma Pi/Iowa State, a former editor of *The Magazine*, and

I thought that their friendship would make an ideal basis for a feature about the importance of Theta friendships. In "Forever Friends," Jan recounts stories of Theta relationships that began in college, began later in life, were lost and rediscovered, have overcome tragedy, have endured for decades. It's a lovely article and very appropriate for this season.

Also appropriate for the season is the Fraternity president's Founders Day and Friendship Fund message on page 12. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, and the anniversary of Theta's founding is the ideal time to offer support to sisters who may need it desperately.

It's always a pleasure to share stories of Thetas who are following their passion, and this issue offers two such features. Connie Shillingburg, Gamma Omicron/New Mexico, is an historical character interpreter, portraying notable women for a variety of audiences. You can learn about Connie "In Her Own Words" on page 26. Meghan Bullock, a recent graduate from the Zeta Chi Chapter at Johns Hopkins, serves as a volunteer in Honduras, working with the poor, sick, and disenfranchised. In "I Wear Many Hats" (page 22), she expresses her gratitude and joy at the opportunity she's been given to help others.

Whether you're as silly about holiday cards as I am, I hope that this season has brought you many chances to treasure your friendships and their impact on your life.

Loyally,

Liz Appel Rinck

Liz Appel Rinck, Editor
Γ/Butler

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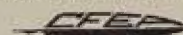
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Connections Deadlines:	Autumn	July 11
	Winter	October 23
	Spring	January 31
	Summer	April 11

Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity, founded at Indiana Asbury College (DePauw University), Greencastle, Indiana, on January 27, 1870, is the first Greek-letter fraternity known among women.

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Notice: Because Kappa Alpha Theta is not an officially recognized student group at Harvard or Santa Clara University, these schools prohibit using "Harvard" or "Santa Clara" in any published reference to our Zeta Xi or Eta Lambda Chapters.

ON THE COVER

In this issue, we celebrate the timeless value of Theta friendships, the meaning of Founders Day, and the comfort of a favorite pair of jeans.

KAPPA ALPHA THETA MISSION STATEMENT

YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW, KAPPA ALPHA THETA EXISTS TO NURTURE EACH MEMBER THROUGHOUT HER COLLEGE AND ALUMNAE EXPERIENCE AND TO OFFER LIFELONG OPPORTUNITY FOR SOCIAL, INTELLECTUAL, AND MORAL GROWTH AS SHE MEETS THE HIGHER AND BROADER DEMANDS OF MATURE LIFE.

CORRESPONDENCE

IN LOVING MEMORY

The following is reprinted with permission from the Alpha Times newsletter of the Alpha Chapter at DePauw.

On Sunday, October 29, 2006, at 8:00 pm, I got the call. It was one of those calls that you record in your mind and play over and over in perfect detail. Laura's mother asked if I was sitting down. What she told me next sent me to my knees in disbelieving anguish. One of the friends I held most dear to me on the planet was gone.

Just a few days prior, Laura Kratz de Castro, Alpha/DePauw; her husband, Lucho; and their two children died in a plane crash in northwestern Arizona. Lucho was piloting their plane when ice developed on the wings and tragedy ensued.

With heartbreak comes great clarity. There is always a life-sized beam of light that humbly shines through the sudden silence of the rubble and helps to direct your footsteps from that point forward. For me, it was about priorities.

I met Kratz in 1983 at DePauw. We both pledged Theta and became immediate and inseparable friends. I was drawn to her by her adventurous spirit, her strong resolve, her unfaltering honesty, and her warmth and gentle-heartedness. Whether you knew Kratz well or just a little, chances are good that she left a memorable impression.

She was great at thought-provoking conversation. You could talk with her way into the night about any topic, and, after you had finished speaking, she would pensively look down, raise her eyebrows, push up her glasses, and

come back with some unique and compelling insight.

She listened with great care to the thoughts and ideas of others and considered each one deeply. She didn't judge others, and she championed the underdog. In college, at a time when most of us were just trying to fit in and be accepted by the masses, Kratz was always comfortable just being herself.

So how did my life become so full of busy-ness that I chose to postpone my October trip to visit her in Atlanta? For two full weeks prior to her death, she was so heavy on my heart, but I didn't call or write. *Not enough undistracted time*, I told myself. And the rest of the story is now told....

So I choose to use this letter as a call to life for all you reading it, and for me, too. I can tell you with great certainty that my life is unmistakably different now. I realize that it's not about balancing things in life. It's about prioritizing. We will never, nor should we, strike an even balance between the people in our lives and work-related tasks and activities. I just don't believe that God put us on this earth to tick off a to-do list. He sent us to affect other people and to be affected. To be available. To love. To serve.

When I sent the e-mail to all of our friends notifying them about Kratz, I included the following call to action (or perhaps confession) that I hope all of you reading it for the first time will also consider now.

It is that I encourage you to listen to that tug at your heart that reminds you of a friend or family member who needs to hear from you. I would give anything to get back to the day before the accident and make one more call to that free-spirited, big-hearted, quirky, beautiful woman to remind her how much I love her. And hear her say, "I love you, too, Pobz." If my priorities were the same then as they so painfully are today, I would have had that extra gift to remember now. Most likely, the outcome in your circumstance will not end so tragically, but I guarantee that there is someone who needs a good chat with you **today**. Find out why....

I want to close with Laura's own words from a condolence letter she sent to a friend in 1987, after the untimely death of another Theta sister.

Who could have known that 20 years later, Laura would be encouraging all of us with the same words now. She wrote: "She is no longer with us physically, but there's no way that she can't be with us. Her energy had to go somewhere. The idea of bits of her absorbed into all us makes sense to me. When someone disappears from our physical world, it seems we appreciate them more, and we think about them more strongly. Everything they said and did seems so much more important to us, and it seems so much eternal and internal because it is. I think there's a reason for that. We need a little of her in us—it makes us so much better as people."

GINA POBANZ SIEGEL
A/DEPAUW

My mother, Ellen Boyd Powell, Mu/Allegheny, was a proud Theta who loved the group in the San Francisco Bay area that she stayed in contact with (There has been a bridge-playing group going for decades!) She enjoyed *The Magazine*, even though I had to read it to her the last several years. She always wanted to know who was in the In Memoriam section, so I know she would want her friends to know that she passed away on June 15 in Walnut Creek, Calif.

RICHARD POWELL

TIES THAT BIND

I enjoyed participating in the Gamma deuteran Chapter even though I did not graduate from Ohio Wesleyan. I have kept in touch with my new member class, recently had a granddaughter pledge Theta, and could not be more proud of my Theta membership. I received my fifty-year pin at the Naples Alumnae Chapter several years ago!

When my granddaughter was initiated, I told my husband I wanted to buy a badge for her. He said, "Why don't you just give her yours?" and I replied, "I am still a Theta and want my pin until death 'do us part!'"

I recently met a Theta from my new member class for lunch, and we had not seen each other for 45 years! Blessings to you all.

NANCY LINDSAY
ΓΔ/OHIO WESLEYAN

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR WANTED

Kappa Alpha Theta is seeking a communications coordinator to work on the Fraternity staff in Indianapolis. This position assists with editorial content of *The Magazine*, the promotion of the fraternity's alumnae programs, publications for Grand Convention and District Leadership Conferences, and other special projects. For more information, contact Liz Rinck, lrinck@kappaalphatheta.org.

NEW ALUMNAE CHAPTERS

Congratulations to the Gulf Coast (Miss.), Missoula (Mont.), Western North Carolina, Broward County (Fla.), and Alaska (see photo below) Alumnae Chapters, which were granted charters by Grand Council in 2007. More information about joining and starting an alumnae chapter is available at www.kappaalphatheta.org.

MILESTONE YEARS

The Fraternity headquarters staff comprises 21 people, 60 percent of whom have worked for Theta for more than five years! This year, Bonnie Brown, events director, and Jeff Risser, director of finance and administration marked 15 years on staff, and Bonnie Craig, merchandise manager, celebrated her 10th staff anniversary.

CIRCUS OF CANCER

Circus of Cancer is a website focused on helping a friend or family member cope with breast cancer. Created by Kelly Corrigan, Epsilon Psi/Richmond, and Nan Davenport while Corrigan was in treatment for stage III breast cancer, the site features more than 70 photographs, essays, and poems that help the visitor empathize with the breast cancer experience. Seven sections on How to Help Your Friend list more than 50 specific ways to support a loved one with breast cancer. Visit www.circusofcancer.org.

REUNIONS ANNOUNCED Φ/PACIFIC

A reunion for the Phi Chapter at University of the Pacific is planned for pledge classes ranging from the late '80s through the early '90s. It will be held at the Hotel Vitale in San Francisco, May 9-11, 2008. Please contact Kristen Wilmoth Howard, 317-833-4279 or khoward1971@sbeglobal.net.

EQ/WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON

The Epsilon Omega Chapter will celebrate its 20th anniversary on the campus of Washington and Jefferson in April 2008. A variety of events are being planned, so don't miss out! Please contact Jen Dorris to ensure we have your contact information (jennifer.dorris@gmail.com) or 520-249-3536.

O/USC

Save the Date—April 2008. Omicron/USC Corporation Board is planning a reunion for all Omicron alums. Details to follow.

PLANNING A REUNION?

If you are trying to locate Thetas from your chapter for a reunion, place a reunion notice in *The Magazine*! Send a brief notice to Reunions, *The Kappa Alpha Theta Magazine*, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268. Be sure to include a contact name, phone number, and e-mail address.

Notices for reunions to be held May through July must be received by January 31; for August through October, received by April 11; for November through January, received by July 11; and for February through April, by October 23.



DISTRICT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

This January and February, more than 1,500 Thetas will gather in nine cities across the US for annual District Leadership Conferences (DLC). College chapter presidents and the vice-presidents finance, education, administration, development, external relations, membership, and Panhellenic, plus advisors, will receive education and training in leadership, personal development, and Theta-specific programs.

More information is available at www.kappaalphatheta.org

District I
Merrillville, Ind.
February 8-10

District VI
Dallas, Texas
February 1-3

District II
Pittsburgh, Pa.
February 1-3

District VII
Los Angeles, Calif.
February 1-3

District III
Boston, Mass.
February 22-24

District VIII
San Francisco, Calif.
January 25-27

District IV
Washington, DC
February 22-24

District IX
Omaha, Neb.
January 18-20

District V
Atlanta, Ga.
February 8-10



Fifteen Thetas attended the organizational meeting of the **ALASKA ALUMNAE CHAPTER**, traveling to Anchorage from as far away as Fairbanks (six hours by road) and Moose Pass (90 miles by road). These women and others expressing interest in forming an alumnae chapter in Alaska represent 24 college chapters.



THETA FOR A LIFETIME

THETA IS NOT SOMETHING WE WERE. IT IS SOMETHING WE ARE.

The lifelong bond of sisterhood we share can't be separated by years, time, or distance. No matter where life has taken you, you **are** a part of the sisterhood of Kappa Alpha Theta.

And Theta needs each of us! Whether you are 18 or 88, a brand-new member or a 50-year Theta, the Fraternity depends on every one of us to carry on the tradition of sisterhood.

By joining an alumnae chapter, Theta alumnae not only help keep our Fraternity strong and viable, but also gain new friends, learn new skills, encounter new ideas, and enjoy new experiences. Joining an alumnae chapter is the best way to meet other Thetas in your community!

To find out if there's an alumnae chapter near you, go to www.kappaalphatheta.org, choose About Our Chapters, and click on Find a Chapter.

There are several

search options.

When you join an alumnae chapter, a portion of the dues you pay is remitted to the international Fraternity. If there is not an alumnae chapter in your area, you can still financially support Theta through the payment of alumnae per capita dues. Alumnae dues directly support the Fraternity's programs and initiatives and help Theta to deliver the support systems and services our members want. These services include enhancing the Fraternity's website to allow greater alumnae connectivity and improving educational and leadership opportunities for alumnae.

There are several options for paying alumnae per capita dues, which are due each January. You may complete the form below and mail it to Fraternity headquarters. (The address is on the form.) Or you may pay dues via Theta's secure website. (Instructions are below.)

By paying \$15 annually, you can help the Fraternity's ongoing efforts to provide the finest and most rewarding membership experience.

• Per capita dues are payable each year on January 1 •

Theta Can Count on Me!

NAME FIRST MAIDEN LAST

ADDRESS

CITY STATE/PROVINCE POSTAL CODE

E-MAIL

CHAPTER OF INITIATION YEAR OF INITIATION

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$15, payable to Kappa Alpha Theta, for alumnae dues. (Dues are not deductible for federal tax purposes.)
- ☐ I would like to be contacted by the nearest alumnae chapter.
- ☐ I would like to learn more about volunteering with a college chapter.

Payment via **credit card** may be made on the Fraternity's website: www.kappaalphatheta.org
(Log in; choose the Alumnae Dues link from the menu to the left.)

Please mail form and payment to
Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity
attn: accounts receivable
8740 Founders Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268



Are You Into *inCircle*?

Theta for a lifetime

inCircle™

Kappa Alpha Theta's
official online community

Are you one of the 5,500 Thetas who have joined **inCircle**, Theta's online community? Through **inCircle**, these Thetas have reconnected with friends and networked about jobs and internships. They have created more than 200 interest groups, centered around common hobbies, interests, chapters, and locales. They have shared blogs and photographs.

inCircle is a vibrant, ever-evolving online community of Thetas! Check it out by going to www.kappalphatheta.org and clicking the **inCircle** tab.

If you're into **inCircle**, tell us about your experience with it. Send your stories about connecting on **inCircle** to webmaster@kappaalphatheta.org.

www.kappaalphatheta.org

Online Now

Complete a **letter of reference** online! No need to download, print, and then mail copies to multiple addresses. Simply log in, click on **Recommend a Potential New Member**, and click on **Letter of Reference**. Fill out the form and send it automatically to the relevant college chapter reference chairman and recruitment reference board.



The Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation has a redesigned website! From www.kappaalphatheta.org, click on the **Foundation** tab.

SNAPSHOTS

Attorney Nelda Luce Blair, EE/Baylor, was recently elected chairman of the board of directors for Town Center Improvement District (TCID) in The Woodlands, Texas. Blair remarked, "TCID has become a successful role model in developing initiatives for the public benefit. We will continue these successful programs and handle new challenges in the years ahead."



Betsy Shanks Grocki, AX/Purdue, is the 78th president of The Indianapolis Children's Museum Guild. As the leader of the 100 active and almost 400 associate members of the not-for-profit organization, Grocki supplies the direction and

guidance needed to continue the outstanding support The Guild has provided The Children's Museum for more than 70 years.

Margaret Dunkle, X/Syracuse, received the National Ambassador Award, presented at the Walk & Roll for Casa's Kids event. This award recognized Dunkle's passion for early identification and intervention for children with developmental issues in Los Angeles County and beyond. It also honored the heavy lifting she did over many years to bring organizations and people together to focus on these issues.



The Oklahoma School Psychological Association's spring conference honored **Dr. Nancy Coleman Barton, IT/Tulsa**, with the Oklahoma School Psychologist of the Year Award.

Champion Events Group, based in Birmingham, Ala., is the nation's leading event fund-raising company, helping organizations throughout the country raise \$50,000-\$150,000 on first-time, one-day events. In July, they were pleased to announce that **Allison Farnsworth Ratkovich, TX/Fresno State**, was promoted to regional director serving the Christian and non-profit communities in the Rocky Mountain region.



Anne Held Reeves, BT/Michigan State, was chosen as a winner of *Country Living's* 2007 Pitch Your Product Contest. Her product, *Subscribe to Delight*, is described as a subscription to a state of mind, bringing together things that are pretty, fragrant,

delicious, and fun. Subscription recipients know that something delightful is on the way, but they won't know what or when it will arrive.

Katie Tabb, ZI/Washington & Lee, captured the title of the main singles draw at the Wilson ITA



Indiana alumnae and collegians, (front) **Alex Maurer, A/DePauw**; **Katie Bates, B/Indiana**; **Jordyn Pryweller, BT/Denison**; **Valerie Cowan, N/Hanover**; **Beth Lohman, T/Butler**, (back) **Alison Pryweller, TY/Miami**; **Katie Osborne, BO/Iowa**; **Abby Hoyer, AX/Purdue**; **Kelly Johnson Oles, BK/Drake**; **Jessica Elkins, Jenna Canal, and Ashley Ransburg**, all B/Indiana; and **Elise Rape, N/Hanover** (not pictured) volunteered at the Indianapolis CASA Kid's Fair in July.



Members from the **Gamma Upsilon Chapter** at Miami University attended singer (and Gamma Upsilon sister!) **Kate Voegele's** concert this summer in Columbus, Ohio. Voegele was featured in *The Magazine*, summer 2007, archived on the Theta website.



Chelsey Mueller, ΔH/Kansas State; **Michaela Brown, P/Nebraska**; **Hannah Keith, BZ/Oklahoma State**; and **Emma Harte, EP/Lehigh** met at LeaderShape Institute in Champaign, Ill.



Members of the **Delta Eta Chapter** at Kansas State recently said farewell to their recruitment advisor of more than two decades, **Pat Fellows Parker, ΔH/Kansas State**. The chapter devised a unique way to show their love and appreciation: they staged this photo and framed it as a "farewell from recruitment gift."

Southeast Regional Women's Tennis Championships. The win sent Tabb on her way to the ITA Nationals held in Mobile, Ala.

Trina Camilletti Callie, BΔ/Arizona, assistant dean of MBA programs at the University of Arizona Eller College of Management, was recently named one of the *Tucson Business Edge* 2007 40 Under 40 winners, an award given to emerging business leaders under the age of 40.

New Hampshire elected **Virginia Lynch Heard**,

BΔ/William & Mary, to the House of Representatives. She currently sits on the environment & agriculture committee.

The 2007 *Houston Business Journal* recognized **Laura Ware Doerre, ΔE/North Carolina**, as an outstanding assistant general counsel. One Nabors Industries, Ltd., colleague remarked, "Laura is one of the strongest lawyers with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. She is a terrific negotiator and her dedication to her clients and her profession is unsurpassed."



Her mother, **Gwen Stegman Brichler**, Γ /Kentucky, and grandmother, **Beverly Benton Stegman**, Δ T/Cincinnati, attended **Jennifer Gwen Brichler's** initiation into the Alpha Gamma Chapter at Ohio State. Grandma and mom were thrilled to have a third generation Theta sister.

THE FOUNDATION CELEBRATES IN DALLAS

The **Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation Board of Trustees** was in Dallas in June to celebrate and honor the **Dallas Alumnae Chapter** for their extraordinary gift to the Foundation this year. **Jan Polk Harbour**, Δ O/Texas, hosted the event at her home. The Foundation's mission is to "strengthen and empower members through philanthropy and education." Through support like that of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter, the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation can continue its good work! Individuals are also encouraged to donate to the KA Θ Foundation.

Dallas alumna **Betsy Snoots Lawson**, Δ O/Oklahoma; hostess **Jan Harbour**, Δ O/Texas; and **Lauren Lawson**, Δ O/Oklahoma collegian and recent recipient of a Kappa Alpha Theta Scholarship.



Fraternity President **Karen Albrecht Ledbetter**, Γ T/Tulsa, and Dallas alumna **Sara Muller Bell**, Δ E/SMU.



Foundation President **Wendy Goshert**, Γ /Butler, with Dallas Alumnae President-Elect **Libby Becker French**, Δ N/Arkansas.



Kerstin Magnuson, Γ Y/Miami; **Alissa Strawcutter**, Δ /Allegheny; and **Nicole Dahlkemper**, Δ /Allegheny, all northern Virginia alumnae, cheered for the Pittsburgh Steelers in black and gold at the Washington Redskins game.

In April, the **Zeta Theta Chapter** at **Cal Polytechnic** held its annual Shooting for the Stars benefit for San Luis Obispo County CASA. The yearly event featured a silent and live auction and raised a record of \$11,000 for the local CASA program. **Marissa Pfohl** and **Emily Hunt-Glassman** were service chairmen, and this year's emcee and auctioneer was actor **Don Stark**, who most recently appeared as Bob Pincioti on *That '70s Show*.

The **Zeta Nu Chapter** at **UC Davis** celebrated its 15th anniversary with an afternoon reception and reunion for collegians and alumnae.

This spring, the **Eta Mu Chapter** at **Occidental** participated in Relay for Life, a nationwide fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. The president and founder of the club was one of Eta Mu's charter class members, **Megan Reeves**. The Eta Mu Chapter was the second-largest fund-raiser at the event, raising \$3,200 for cancer research.



The **Beta Zeta Chapter** facility at **Oklahoma State** was glowing after a snowfall.



Suzy Otto, **Jen Carnes**, **Kristin Shenk**, **Amy Grubesky** and **Emily Olson** are five **Beta Phi** members who have continued to live together in NYC after graduation from **Penn State**. They get a kick out of their "sorority house."

ALUMNAE



Ashley Kennedy, BA/Arizona (not pictured) and Jennica Prescott, AS/Washington State (center), were honored by local alumnae as they received scholarships from the Greater Long Beach Area Alumni Panhellenic. (Front) Nancy Badley Zantiny, ΓΔ/Ohio Wesleyan; Marty Hopkins Campbell, ΓP/UC Santa Barbara; (back) Dr. Peggy Smith, AS/Washington State; Cathy Schumacher Bailey, O/USA; Lorie Herbert Merrill, ΓΞ/San Jose State; Natalie Cooper Wallace, O/USC; and Pamela Henning Spoo, ΓΞ/San Jose State attended.



More than 25 Westchester Thetas volunteered in various committees at the Barclays, a PGA tour event in late August and the Westchester Alumnae Chapter's signature fund-raiser. (Back) Lisa Davis Olney, ΔE/Arizona State; Kim Traugott, I/Cornell; (front) Sandra Pederzini, Δ/Vermont; Jennifer Parent Coleman, ΔE/Arizona State; and Stephanie Filardi, ΔΦ/Tulane, volunteered.



This year, San Diego Alumnae Panhellenic was the host chapter for the Southern California Council of Alumnae Panhellenics (SCCAP). A luncheon was held at the Crossings Golf Course in Carlsbad, Calif. The luncheon included Joyce Lampman Uphoff, BE/UCLA; Liz Hill, ZP/UC San Diego; Christiane Hoffman, ZΩ/Loyola Marymount; and Janet Paine Peters, BΩ/Colorado College, former Fraternity president.

Three determined members of the Denver Alumnae Chapter Hiking Club completed a 20-mile round-trip hike on a recent camping trip to view the extraordinary rock formations at Colorado's Wheeler Geologic Area. The area, which was once a National Park, is not accessible by car. They are Sherla Jennings Alberola, BΠ/Michigan State; Gloria Schlappkohl Siekmeier, AP/South Dakota; and Kathleen Markey, X/Syracuse.



The Clearwater, Tampa and St Petersburg Alumnae Chapters in Florida celebrated Founders Day with a luncheon. This year's event was hosted by the Clearwater

chapter in Tampa, Fla. In attendance were Lynn Crowell Lawton, M/Allegheny; Beth Barnett Davies, AΓ/Ohio State; and Mary-Ann Larson Janssen, ΓA/Beloit.



Nifty at 50 was the slogan for this celebration of 50-year Thetas in Lawrence, Kan. The luncheon included Jeannot Barnes Seymour, K/Kansas; Edwynna Condon Gilbert, AM/Missouri; Susan Frederick Schrepel, K/Kansas; Joanne Beal Feist, K/Kansas; and Ruth Leinberger Hiss, AM/Missouri.



The Portland Alumnae Chapters annual summer picnic was held in July. More than 20 alumnae attended for food, fun, and fellowship with hundreds of small arts and crafts items collected for Legacy Emanuel Children's Hospital as a service project.

Madeline Island ABC Book by Marcia Kierland Henry, BΠ/Michigan State, is a delightful, engaging book for all ages. Written in poetry form, it takes the reader on a journey through the alphabet via the many treasures of Madeline Island, Wis., one of the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior.

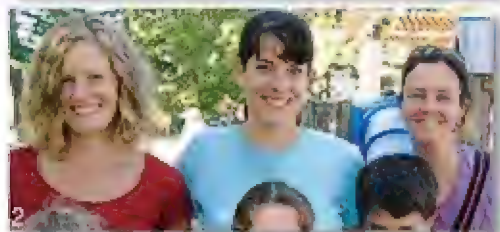
Carys Horgan, Carrie Porter, and Carrie Badanes, all BA/William & Mary took a bike trip across the country. They worked with an organization called Bike & Build, raising money and awareness for affordable housing. The trip spanned the US from Providence, RI, to San Francisco, Calif. over nine weeks.



Reunions



1 A reunion of Psi members in Door County, Wis., included **Jessie Held Mayer**, **Kelly Eidsmo Bowe**, **Emily Gorski**, and **Jennifer Ovadenko**.



2 Beta Delta alumnae from Arizona **Mary Berger Hawkins**, **Elizabeth Burns Black** and **Tiffany Baehr Jay** recently met up for a reunion.



3 Alpha Nus from the **University of Montana** class of 1975 know the importance of maintaining their special connection. Most recently they reunited in Orange County, Calif. for pool and beach activities. **Tamara Sue Zahn**, **Paula Sinn-Penfold**, **Jean Beary Stolle**, **Jane Bush Wierzb**, **Kim Randak Henry**, **Christine Smith Mahoney**, **Christine Switzer Burnell**, **Janet Dolan**, **Virginia Murphy Ellison**, **M.P. Jeub Loewy**, **Kathleen Rebich Munson**, and **Susan McKenzie Campbell** all attended. *Not Pictured:* **Charolette Ejeld Jones**.



4 Beta Pi alumnae from **Michigan State** held a reunion in Harbor Springs, Mich., in August. *(Back)* **Mary Neller Jessup**, **Jean Gregory Laug-Carroll**, **Maxine Neely Moseley**, **Sylvia Stadle Rundquist**, **Donna Sandberg Hoffhines**, **Adelaide Brown Luplow**, **Mary Lou Brown Tanton**, *(front)* **Jeannine Warrington James**, **Barbara Carlson Crawford**, and **Carolyn Lintz Benjamin** celebrated 50 years of friendship and sisterhood.



7 To celebrate five years since **Beta Theta's** reestablishment at **Idaho**, alumnae and collegians shared a weekend on campus together. The weekend included a tour of the new house and a very popular dance challenge; attendees representing more than four decades of Thetas competed. The celebration was a testament to the strong bonds of sisterhood.

In June, 1996-2000 initiates from the **Zeta Tau Chapter** at the **University of Delaware** traveled to New York City for a reunion. Their festivities included dining at a revolving restaurant, followed by a limo ride to the Upper East Side for dancing and fun. They traveled from New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Virginia, and Boston.



5 Twenty-four **Alpha Lambda** alumnae from the **University of Washington**, some coming from as far away as Boston and Hawaii, recently celebrated their 20-year reunion on Guemes Island, Wash., with a weekend of whale watching, photo sharing, laughing and reminiscing. Attendees included *(front row)* **Christan Smith Connors**, **Lisa MacDonald Rein**, **Margo Merrifield Ros**, **Paige Russell**, **Michelle Chan**, **Molly McCabe Black**, **Jane Broom**, **Karen Sanderson Percival**, **Marjorie Evans Harwood**; *(back row)* **Maura Sullivan**, **Julie Carl Tolboe**, **Isla Kelly Carl**, **Tresha Dutton**, **Angela Hayes**, **Sara Szczech Rollo**, **Lisa Sleeth**, **Catherine Bender Quigley**, **Stephanie Moix Harlow**, **Roxane Hoon Robinson**, **Jill Gregory Kelley**, **Nicole Haynes McClelland**, **Jennifer Ely Brunner**, and **Kendi Miller Locknane**.



6 The 60th reunion of the **Gamma Mu Chapter** at **Maryland** was held in April. More than 200 alumnae attended, and some of the 1947-1950 initiates are pictured here.

Kites Flying High

Kappa Alpha Theta welcomes two new college chapters, Eta Pi, at Case Western Reserve in Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Eta Rho, at James Madison University, in Harrisonburg, Va.

The Fraternity also announces a forthcoming chapter at Chapman University in Orange, Calif.

November was an exciting month for Kappa Alpha Theta, as two new college chapters were installed.

The weekend of November 17 was an exciting time for the 44 charter members and one affiliate of the **Eta Pi Chapter at Case Western Reserve**. In addition to being initiated into the Fraternity, their chapter was installed; Fraternity President Karen Albrecht Ledbetter, $\Gamma\Gamma$ /Tulsa, presided over the services, with assistance from members of the Eta Kappa Chapter at John Carroll.

Following the chartering service, a celebratory brunch was held at the Cleveland Renaissance Hotel. Many fami-

ly members, local alumnae, university staff and students, and Fraternity officers were in attendance to honor the new initiates. Paige Bendel Ellerman, $\Gamma\Gamma$ /Kentucky, college district president, served as brunch toastmistress; Wes Schaub, Case's director of Greek Life, extended university greetings; and Wendy Sears Goshert, Γ /Butler, president of the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation, offered Foundation greetings.

Two weeks later, Theta excitement moved to Virginia. On November 30 and December 1, 115 women were initiated into the Fraternity. On December 2, the **Eta Rho Chapter** was installed at James



Eta Pi





Madison (JMU). President Karen Ledbetter again presided over the services, with assistance from members of the Zeta Iota Chapter at Washington & Lee.

A brunch to honor the chartering of Eta Rho was held at JMU's Student Center. Friends and family of the new members, university staff, local alumnae, and Fraternity officers joined the celebration.

Thank you to the Fraternity officers, educational leadership consultants, and staff members who served on the installation team: Karen Ledbetter, $\Gamma\Gamma$ /Tulsa, Fraternity president; Debbie Allen, $\Delta\Theta$ /Florida, Fraternity vice-president public relations; Zita Enloe, $\Gamma\Phi$ /Texas Tech, Fraternity vice-president finance and facilities; Paige Ellerman, Π /Kentucky, college district president; Mandy Wushinske, $Z\Xi$ /Ohio Northern, college district president; Megan Reynolds, BN /Florida State, public relations district director; Clare Edwards, GY /TCU, installation song leader; Betsy Corridan, BO /Iowa, executive director; Kelley Hurst, BI /Colorado, director of chapter services; Jennifer Broughton, Γ /Butler, assistant director of chapter services; and Linda Chen, EA/\sim ; Jenna Ghidelli, ΓX /Fresno State; Bekah Hazen, ZN /UC Davis; Nicole Hebert, $A\Phi$ /Tulane; Leslie Kreinberg, BT /Denison; Jaryn Jech, BZ /Oklahoma State; Mary-Scott Madigan, ZA /Charleston; Nicci Pannier, ΔE /Arizona State; Caroline Redmond, $\Delta\Phi$ /Clemson; and Jessica Wilson, BE /UCLA, all educational leadership consultants.

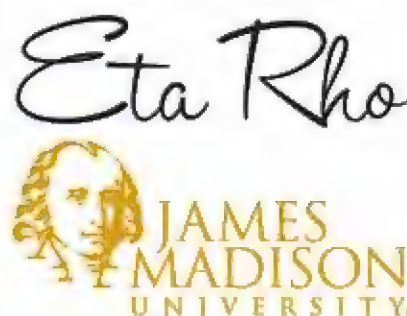
Theta's growth will continue with the colonization of the **Eta Sigma Chapter** at Chapman University in early 2008.

Founded in 1861, Chapman's residential campus near the Old Towne district of Orange, Calif., is home to more than 5,500 students from 45 countries. According to its vision statement, the school will "... be a preeminent university engaged in distinguished liberal arts and professional programs that are interconnected, reach beyond the boundaries of the classroom and work toward developing the whole person: the intellectual, social and spiritual dimensions of life." Chapman offers bachelor's degrees in more than 45 areas of concentration and master's degrees in more than 15 areas of concentration.

Installation of the Eta Sigma Chapter will take place in April. If you know of a young woman on campus who might be interested in becoming a member, please contact Jenni Broughton, assistant director of chapter services, 888-526-1870, ext. 133. Thetas interested in serving Eta Sigma as advisors may contact Stacie Zastrow Durnford, theta@durnfordgroup.com.



ELC Mary-Scott Madigan, center, and Eta Rho founding members Christina Vandenberg, left, and Sara Woods.



Foundation

Betty Baur Lambert Society

The Theta Behind the Giving Society

"Having had a 33-year business career when it was not the accepted thing to do and in which my husband has been most supportive, we both want to help other women. In this day, one has to specialize and graduate study is required for the seriously career-minded."

— Betty Baur Lambert, November 16, 1976

The Betty Baur Lambert Society is the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation's planned giving society, recognizing members and friends who have thoughtfully included gifts to the Foundation in their estate plans.

After Betty Baur Lambert and her husband, James, passed away, their thoughtful bequest to Theta amounted to a 1.6 million dollar gift, the largest ever received by the Foundation to that date. This gift made by the Lambert family has made a lasting impact by awarding an average of 26 graduate scholarships annually since 1990. The Lambert gift was the first Foundation gift to exceed one million dollars.

"The Foundation has been able to assist so many women pursuing graduate degrees, due to the generosity of Betty and James Lambert," says Jennifer Kendall Pendleton, executive director of the Foundation.

Betty Baur was initiated into the Alpha Chi Chapter at Purdue University in 1934 and attributed her successful 33-year business career to being elected president of the Alpha Chi Chapter.

Her husband, James B. Lambert, also loved Theta.

"We started out after World War II with absolutely nothing monetarily. We had our intelligence and our energy. We were truly self-made." The Lamberts wanted their bequest to help young women who were serious about their careers and graduate students, especially those studying business and the arts.

Before Betty Baur Lambert passed away in 1988, she said, "There is no greater reward for our wonderful gift of Theta friendship for a lifetime than saying 'thank you' with a gift of time or money to support and carry on the legacy that we have been privileged to be part and enjoy."



Betty Baur Lambert, AX/Purdue, (left) cherished her Theta friendships.

Call for Board Nominations!

The Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation Nominating Committee is seeking Foundation supporters interested in serving a two-year term on the Foundation Board of Trustees, beginning July 1, 2008. Thetas can self-nominate or nominate a sister who is passionate about the Foundation and demonstrates excellent leadership skills. Foundation Trustees need to be able to travel during the year for meetings and to represent the Foundation at events. They must also be able to give presentations to chapters, make donor visits and calls, provide board governance, and execute Foundation fund-raising strategies. If you or someone you know is interested in serving the Foundation at the leadership level, log on to www.kappaalphathetafoundation.org and click on the Foundation icon to download a nomination form. You may also contact Foundation Executive Director Jennifer Kendall Pendleton with questions or to receive a form by e-mail, 800-526-1870 or jpendleton@kappaalphatheta.org.

Will you be 70½ before the end of this year?

The Pension Protection Act signed in August of 2006 allows IRA owners age 70½ years and older to transfer directly to Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation up to \$100,000 in 2007. The transferred amount is excluded from the IRA owner's taxable income and can count toward the minimum required distribution in each year. The transfer must be made directly from the IRA account to Theta Foundation and must be for an outright gift. There is not an income tax deduction for the transfer; the amount is simply not included in the IRA owner's income. Call Jennifer Pendleton at 1-800-526-1870 before the end of this year to take advantage of this special provision!

Or, you can do what Betty Lambert and her husband did—leave the simplest gift! Just by adding a simple clause in your will, you can make a lasting impact on Thetas across the country. You may provide for the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation by creating a new will, adding a codicil to your present will, including the Foundation in your revocable trust, or designating the Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. To ensure that your exact intentions are carried out, wills, codicils, and trusts should be prepared by or with the advice of your attorney. Alumnae who have remembered the Foundation in their estate plans are recognized through membership in the Betty Baur Lambert Society.

For additional information on the various methods of assigning a bequest to the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation or for guidance in planning a gift, please contact Jennifer Pendleton, 800.526.1870 or jpendleton@kappaalphatheta.org.

FOUNDATION GIFTS RECEIVED

JULY 1, 2007 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

IN HONOR OF:

2000-2001 ELCs
by Erika Yeagy Biddix

2007-2008 District II VPFs
by Marcia Wolff Thompson

Mrs. W. E. (Linda) Alderson
by Linda Chappell Reagor

Alpha Pi Chapter
by Diane L. Lochner

Dorothy Spencer Anneberg
by Beth Anneberg Cooper

Marjorie Wilson Barnes's Birthday
by Renee Bergenheier Underwood

Anne Sadler Budill
by Ann Mercer Varey

Carrie Burick
by Bruce Reinhold

Katie Busby, PhD
by Bonnie Batrich Brown

Brittany M. Dewan
by Derek Dewan

Jill Durovskik and Family
by Bruce Reinhold

Robin Durston and Family
by Bruce Reinhold

Margaret Fawcett Edwards
by Ann Fawcett Murphy

Elizabeth, Sarah and Jennifer Elder
by Sarah Elder Lyons

Zita Enloe
by Nan Brinegar Matson

Judy Smith Estey
by Sue Laffan Thompson

Eta Theta Chapter
by Andrea B. Halpern

Foundation Trustees
by Kelly M. Wesley

Mary MacShort Gonzalez
by Taria Lynch Thiel

Carolyn Parkinson Gough
by Amy Gough Pierce

Laurie Calder Graves
by Jennifer L. Lucas

Dot Glover Grimbail
by Elizabeth Jones Johnson

Margaret Harrold's 100th Birthday
by Eleanor McCormick McInnis

Randall Erin Heyde
by Lalla Boswell Heyde

Shelby Williams Hladon's Pregnancy
by Christiane J. Hoffman

Lisa Lochner Krom
by Diane L. Lochner

Laurel Kusner
by Cleveland Alumnae Panhellenic Association

Nelda McQuien Laney
by Renee Bergenheier Underwood

Karen Albrecht Ledbetter's Visit to ΔΘ Chapter
by ΔΘ Chapter

Lacie Lee
by Leighton Johnson Donnell

Kim Linin
by Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds

Jennifer L. Lucas
by Sue Laffan Thompson

Lisa Malloy and Family
by Bruce Reinhold

Mallory McCoy
by Sarah Stanley

Jennifer Roberts Moe
by Diane Lochner

Kelly Oles
by Mary Ellen Kutsenda Fitzsimonds

Emily Patterson's initiation into AΓ Chapter
by Jan Johnson Bartel

Eileen Cannon Paulin
by Wendy Taylor

Beth Barbero-Portman
by Betsy Douglass White

Reinhold Family
by Bruce Reinhold

Jean Reinhold
by Bruce Reinhold

Mina Baker Ring
by Cady E. Sturk

Lois Southard Snelson
by Barbara Kuber Maurer

Christa Dell Sobon
by Ann Mercer Varey

Audrey Langjahr Stout
by Carol Langjahr Pennington

Linda Hinds Trapp
by Jenn Stein Buckner

Carol Lyon Vogel
by Jennifer L. Lucas

Elise Dolliver Whyte
by Martha Kenley Dolliver

Alexis Wilson's Birthday
by Renee Bergenheier Underwood

Amy Spear Yearwood
by Constance Foss Anthony

Dorothy Cline Yungmans
by Her Family

Zeta Kappa Chapter
by Catrina Pope Pfyler

Sue Gilmore's Birthday
by Marcia Wolff Thompson

Samantha Hunter's Engagement
by Christa Dell Sobon

Sandi Kemmish
by Julie Ruffolo Gilpin

Fritzi Klopfenstein
by Nancy Davis Sperry

Ruthie and Hap Langstaff's 51st Wedding Anniversary
by Jennifer L. Lucas

Marriage of Kathryn Clemons and Jon Parenteau
by Marcia Wolff Thompson

Marriage of Jane Hedges and Bob Munroe
by Jennifer L. Lucas

Marriage of Nicole LeMieux and Ryan Erickson
by Debra Ilchak

India McCanse
by Julie Ruffolo Gilpin

Lindsay Sell's Engagement
by Melissa Shaub

Roberta Van Zandt Williamson and Jack Williamson's 50th Wedding Anniversary
by Laura Walthall Smith

IN MEMORY OF:

Jeanne P. Appel
by Wendy Sears Goshert

Jodi Rae Bacon
by Debbie Stevens

Thomas "Bud" Barnaby
by Phyllis Barnaby

Julie Sartor Beckman
by Julie Anderson Gilbert

Bray Bradley Brackin
by Gretchen Webster Alexander

William Canine
by Marcia Wolff Thompson

Alice Neal Krebs Clarkson
by Margie Clarkson Jost

Lois Cornell
by Cleveland (East) Alumnae Chapter

Martha DuMars Davis
by Mimi Davis Reid

Lorraine Yvonne Stringer Donley
by Susan Duffy

by Randy Hill Kakota

Elree Ferguson Eagleson
by Alice Osborn Brooks

Cecil and Robert A. Eldson
by Cynthia Wahle

Barbara Haldeman Elliott
by Bryan-College Station Alumnae Chapter and the ΔΩ Advisory Board

by Martha West Griffith

Carolyn Wright Fish
by Rebecca J. Fish Hatcher

IN CELEBRATION OF:

Birth of Paige Ellerman's twins
by Julie Ruffolo Gilpin

Birth of Parker Hellquist Cunningham
by Julie Ruffolo Gilpin

by Kelley Galbreath Hurst

Birth of Cecelia Frances Roussel
by Julie Ruffolo Gilpin

Birth of Jack Thomas Warner
by Jennifer L. Lucas

174th New Member Class of 1997
by Julie Covert Murphy

Alice VanWagenen Fraser
by George H. Fraser
by Ruth Gregory Gromeeko

Grace Daniel Gardner
by Lissa Lutan Bradford

Dr. Alice Garrett
by SLO/Central Coast Alumnae Chapter

Barbara "Barbi" Berner Gottschalk
by Enid Russell Dickson
by Frances "Fran" Multnix Gerritz
by Patricia "Pat" French Harris
by Caroline Hampton McKnight
by Annetta Tiley Potts
by Diane Larson Smith
by Dianne Danford Treadwell

Kathryn Griffith Griffith
by Karen Clark Tinsley

Nancy Griffith
by Reagan B. Ladd

Peggy Buren Guitteau
by Phyllis Carter Perrine

Dianne Gumerson
by Kristen Gumerson Bohanon

Joyce Johnson Hansell
by Kathleen "Kathi" Hansell Hendrix
by Shirley Ingram Holland

Janice Fenton Harris
by Marilyn Fenton Walz

Georgella Hefty
by Sue Laffan Thompson

Caroline Helkes
by Elizabeth A. Long

Helen Field Holden
by Madeline Reynolds Adams
by Patricia Carter Edwards

Josephine Simpson Houston
by Jane Houston Nordlund

Catherine Johnston
by Martha Bredesen Hoza

Dorothy "Dottie" Beatty Jones
by Joan Trenchard French

Mary Walker Jones
by Sally Walker Eschbach

Norma Jorgensen
by Susan Peterson Westhafer

Veta Gardner Landry
by Patricia Conner Coggan

Katie Langille
by Orange County Alumnae Chapter

Robert Levis
by Jennifer L. Lucas

Nelaura "Rusty" Orr Lewis
by Wanda Woodyard Shreiner

Pat Thomas Lloyd
by Phyllis Carter Perrine

Sandra Luce
by Betsy Sierk Corridan

Margaret Bump Marlay
by Myron G. Marlay, Jr.

Marjorie H. McCormick
by Eleanor McCormick McInnis

Ines Abbott McCrary
by Lynn Spickelmier Butler

Mary Alice Boyd McDonald
by Susan Hurley DeConcini
by Jean Knight Markley
by John McDonald

Elisabeth Steiwer McElvenny
by Karen Blair Fisher

John Miller
by Rosemary "Roses" Marcoux Longino

Rosalie Daggy Miller
by Shirley Ingram Holland
by Phyllis Carter Perrine

Jean Morgan
by Jean R. Barnes
by Barbara Haman

Annabelle Parr Myers
by Janet Myers Harless

Barbara Ehrman Pearson
by Carole Lundgren Currey
by Marilyn Hansen Ford
by Sandra Cronenwet Wiselley

Susan K. Peterson
by Mary Ellen Carlson Peterson

Jeanette Drehmer Pfommer
by Arlene Dumars Callaghan
by Angela Harrington Norton
by Barbara Beukema Richard

Sally Cowan Reinhold
by Sandra Parrish Ebling
by Traci Nagle
by Sue Laffan Thompson

Sue Wilson Robinson
by Lissa Lutan Bradford
by Gayle E. Smith

Michele Plachy Rubin
by Debbie Stevens

Helen Jackson Huntington Ruoff
by Martha "Pattie" McGowan Black

Eugenia "Gena" M. Short
by Alice Osborn Brooks
by Sylvia L. Dietsch
by Julia C. Shumaker
by Suzanne Lutan Woodruff

Barbara Stewart
by Mary Shand de Fremery

Betty Nichols Thomas
by Pasadena Alumnae Chapter
by Janet McNeely Folks

Jane Moorhead Thompson
by Mr. and Mrs. J. Joseph Edwards

Mary Ellen Thompson
by Barbara Thompson Beckham
by Dorthlynn Dent Gaddis
by Carolyn Watson Tharp

Dianne Carrell Wertheimer
by Ann Orrick Hogue

E. Jayne Nixon Williams
by Jacquelyne Jayne Nixon DenUyl

Loretta Wofford
by SLO/Central Coast Alumnae Chapter

Beverly Ballantine Yntema
by Betsy Horning

Margaret Landers Young
by Rosemary "Roses" Marcoux Longino

MEET US IN MIAMI!

Known as the City Under the Sun
and the Gateway to the Americas,
Miami will be host to Thetas from all
over the continent as we
celebrate our sisterhood.
Meet us in Miami, where Theta's
twin stars will shine as brightly
as the south Florida sun.



KAO Grand
Convention 2008

June 18 - June 22, 2008
Miami, Florida

TOP TEN REASONS

Why YOU Should Meet Us in Miami

- 10 To spend four days at the Doral resort, home to five championship golf courses, five restaurants, a spa, and a water park.
- 9 To celebrate KAO Foundation's fund-raising success and philanthropic mission at a special luncheon.
- 8 To make new friends and reconnect with old ones.
- 7 To see how you help the Foundation make a difference in the lives of our members.
- 6 To bask in Miami's artistic, culinary, and historical diversity.
- 5 To walk through the Pansy Patch, a new Foundation tradition at Grand Convention.
- 4 To have a blast with your sisters at Fun Night.
- 3 To help shape the future of the Fraternity.
- 2 To experience the pageantry of the Procession and Final Banquet.

And, the #1 reason:

To see why Theta is for a lifetime!

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wed., June 18

Welcome Dinner
District Meetings

Thur., June 19

Nikē
Business Sessions
Foundation Luncheon
Educational Speakers
College Recognition
Dinner

Fri., June 20

Business Session
Memorial Service
College Sessions
Alumnae Sessions
Free Afternoon
Fun Night

Sat., June 21

Business Sessions
Election of
Grand Council
Alumnae Recognition
Luncheon
College Sessions
Alumnae Sessions
Banquet Procession
Final Banquet



CONVENTION FAQ's

Where and when is Grand Convention?

Grand Convention 2008 will be held at the Doral Golf Resort and Spa in Miami, Fla., from Wednesday, June 18, to Sunday, June 22.

Who should attend convention?

College Chapter Delegate

There is ONE college chapter delegate per chapter. Each chapter president must attend as the voting chapter delegate unless permission is received from her college district president to send another chapter member in her place. If a college chapter is sending an alternate as the delegate, she must be registered by April 15, 2008.

Alumnae Chapter Delegate

Each alumnae chapter is encouraged to send ONE voting delegate to Grand Convention. All alumnae voting delegates must be registered as the alumnae delegate by April 15, 2008 in order to be seated and have a vote at Convention business sessions.

Non-delegates

All college or alumnae members are encouraged and welcome to attend Grand Convention.

Will there be any time to sightsee?

Free time is scheduled for Friday (June 20) afternoon. More information on options for afternoon will be available at www.kappaalphatheta.org on February 15.

When and how can I register?

What is the registration deadline?

Registration will be available on the Kappa Alpha Theta website beginning February 15. Registration ends April 15 for delegates and May 15 for non-delegates. There will be a \$50 late fee for registrations between April 15 and May 1 for delegates and May 1 and 15 for non-delegates.

When and how do I need to make my flight arrangements?

Instructions for flight arrangements and ground transportation will be included with the registration information, which will be available at www.kappaalphatheta.org on February 15.

Other questions?

For general Convention questions, contact Bonnie Brown, events director (bbrown@kappaalphatheta.org). For questions regarding registration, contact Chris Finley, Convention registration coordinator (cfinley@kappaalphatheta.org).

• **Registration materials will be available Feb. 15** •



Forever Friends

Whether the ties span decades or represent a recent link, Theta friendships carry a cherished sense of permanency

By Jan Schmitz Mathew, Δ Illinois

Although smudged and crumpled, I remember the yellow Post-it note as being worth its weight in gold.

In October 1995, this small slip of paper accompanied me on my move from Des Moines, Iowa, to our new home in Lafayette, Ind. I stuck it to my bedroom mirror and, as I unpacked boxes and learned my new landscape, I'd occasionally glance its way. Just seeing the square

A Post-it introduced Susan Stephan Holloway, Γ TI/Iowa and Jan Schmitz Mathew, Δ Illinois.



of bright yellow made me feel lighter.

On the Post-it note, my friend (and fellow Des Moines Alumnae Chapter member) Martha Schneider Fifeild, Gamma Pi/Iowa State, had jotted the phone number of a Gamma Pi sister, Susan Stephan Holloway, who lived in Frankfort, Ind., just 20 miles from Lafayette. "You have to meet Susan," Martha told me. "You'll love her."

I did.

When I called Susan to introduce myself, we wound up chatting for an hour, thrilled by all we had in common. In addition to sisterhood, we were both writers; we each had a daughter and son who were relatively close in age; and our husbands both had farming backgrounds. We met for lunch, which signaled the start of a friendship that felt like "forever" from first sighting. We've stayed close through three subsequent moves (two, hers; one, mine) and, even though gaps between our visits can top a year, we always pick up practically mid-sentence.

I feel our story resonates among Thetas of all ages, chapters, and circumstances. While some women maintain their close college ties, others pull the threads together again after decades. And some, like Susan and me, have been blessed with a serendipitous friendship that finds them at just the right stage in their journeys.

Regardless of how the gift is presented, the truth of a phrase we first heard as new members rings true today: Theta is, indeed, for a lifetime.

"The kind of friendship, the kind of bond you find in Theta, just doesn't fade."

— Julie Moran, Γ A/Georgia, broadcast journalist

The era was the mid-1940s—a decade that found Ohio State University (OSU) students swept up in a swell of patriotism. OSU, among the country's largest land-grant universities at the time with 25,000 students, was designated as a World War II Army Specialized Training Program site in 1944. Hundreds of soldiers, all selected by the US Army and "stationed" on campus for one or more 12-week terms of training, transformed OSU into a kind of wartime production line. Dormitories and classrooms doubled as barracks and base, and spirits ran high.

Caught up in the momentum were nine fun-loving Alpha Gamma new members—Betty Henderson, Phyllis Fullen, Helen Andersen, Loann Woods, Betsy Townsend, Dottie Dilmore, Carol Rewey, Carol Hanna, and Marjorie Miller. A lively and highly compatible bunch, their range of activities—from selling kisses to support war bonds to gracing as many fraternity parties as possible—often caused the chapter housemother to bemoan, "Don't you girls ever stay home?"

"The nine of us just got along great from the very start," recalls Carol Hanna Barnard. "We were all good students, involved in a lot of activities, and came from similar backgrounds."

"We played tennis, skied, sang, swam, and always had a great time. We even kept bridge games going all through college."

No wonder, then, that when graduation rolled around in 1947, Barnard and company vowed to keep their connection strong. The link, decided Marjorie Miller, would be a round-robin newsletter—circulated to each of the nine who, in turn, would add their news.

Six decades later, snail-mail still connects these Theta sisters. "It takes about 10 months to make it all the way around," says Barnard of the large manila envelope typically stuffed with letters, photos, and newspaper clippings.

"There's no deadline, but everyone

records the date they received the letters, and the date they mailed the packet to the next recipient.

"If someone holds it up, we always know who's guilty," she says, laughing.

Neither relocations, nor illness, nor travels, nor kids, nor grandkids can keep the round-robin newsletter from its appointed rounds. Even after Phyllis Fullen Lewis died about seven years ago, Barnard wrote to her husband, Lew, until his death, and then to Phyllis's brother, in order to get updates on her children and grandchildren.

Staying in close contact also has inspired adventures reminiscent of the group's college days. With spouses in tow, they've traveled together, and also have attended OSU and Alpha Gamma reunions. "We use any excuse to get together," Barnard says.

Another bonus: three of the "round robins"—Barnard, Betsy Townsend Zahn and Loann Woods Crane—now live in Columbus, Ohio.

"When you're twenty-two, you never really think about life sixty years later," Barnard says. "But we've stayed close from day one."

*"... When we
grave sorrows meet,
sister love o'er
distance speeds to
comfort us in word
and deed, and make
the bitter sweet..."*

— A Theta Hymn;

Words: Margaret Seniel, X/Syracuse;
arrangement: Cay Womack Eckland, AΘ/Texas

At the University of Iowa, Beta Omicron new members Elizabeth Rendall Jowaisas and Allyn Barta Dukes were as close as the room next door—a proximity the two art majors hoped to some-



Alpha Omega State sisters, including Carol Hanna Barnard, Betsy Townsend Zahn, Joan Rinker Taylor, and Pauline Bailey Arthur, round robin newsletters.

how preserve after graduation.

Enter, however, the "busy" years of marriages, children, careers, and relocations, with Dukes eventually landing in Houston and Jowaisas in Winter Park, Fla. "Like a lot of us, Allyn and I got to the point where we exchanged a few Christmas cards, and that was about it," Jowaisas admits.

In the fall of 2006, however, that situation shifted significantly. Jowaisas was diagnosed with an uncommon cancer and sought treatment at Houston's MD Anderson Cancer Center. "When you get a cancer diagnosis, your instinct is to move quickly," she says. "But most of the time, it's better to do your homework and get treatment, or a second opinion, from the experts in your particular illness. I was ready to start treatment at a Florida hospital, but my inner voice kept saying, 'no.'"

"It took me thirty days to get a response from MD Anderson, and waiting to get in was the first point of slowdown—and of realizing there would be situations where I really had no control."

Heeding her "inner voice" also led to a reunion. After learning of Jowaisas's condition, her Theta little sister, Julie Schmidt Roberts, who lives in Falls Church, Va., sent e-mails to dozens of Theta sisters, asking for prayers and support.

Among those contacted was Marybeth Evans Hughes of Des Moines, who let Jowaisas know that Allyn Dukes

was living in Houston.

"We realized we had missed big chunks of each others' lives but, at the same time, we picked right back up," recalls Jowaisas of her "reunion" lunch with Dukes. "I go back to Houston every three months, and having Allyn there always lifts my spirits."

Thanks to Roberts's messages, Jowaisas heard from scores of Theta sisters—a level of response that eased the stress of difficult times.

"At one point, I was hospitalized for about ten days and almost didn't make it through treatment," Jowaisas says. "Throughout it all, I felt like my Theta sisters were my second family. They helped me spiritually, emotionally, and financially. It was simply incredible."



Allyn Barta Dukes and Elizabeth Rendall Jowaisas, both BO/Iowa, reconnected in Houston after having lost touch for many years.

Lessons learned from living with cancer were equally remarkable, Jowaisas says.

"I've lightened up on pretty much everything, and have realized I really can't control things. I simply follow my intuition."

Right now, her priority is to heal. But after a year's hiatus, Jowaisas looks forward to re-invigorating her career and, possibly, to relocating. She counts on good company for both.

"In college, who would have known the power and value of Theta friendships? Now, I know I'll stay connected with Theta sisters as my new journey begins."

*"Theta can give you a small community of friends,
a community to which you can belong.
It gives you a leg up on having some kind of family."*

— Mario Thomas, O/USC, actor, author, activist

Responses to our online request for Theta friendship stories came from all corners of the country. Following are excerpts from the many we received.

"I'm proud to be a Theta, and have always been involved in my chapter, holding offices internally and also serving on associate and judicial boards for Panhellenic.

"Recently, I believe I've also seen Theta exactly the way our founders envisioned. One aspiration for our organization is, '... to provide the loving support of friends,' and I believe the Alpha Chi Chapter at Purdue has exceeded that goal.

"On March 15, 2003, I was diagnosed with leukemia. Everything happened so fast ... but one thing I will never forget

is the support I received.

"When my Theta sisters found out I was sick, I was immediately overwhelmed with phone calls, letters, banners, and visitors. I couldn't help but feel fortunate to have so many amazing and caring friends in my life, and I will never take that for granted. Cancer is not something you can beat in a week or even in a few weeks. Treatments last for months and are both physically and mentally exhausting.

"Fortunately, the girls were there for the duration—keeping me in their thoughts and prayers. During difficult times, attitude is one of the few things in our control, and I believe the support of the Alpha Chi Chapter has greatly contributed to my abil-



ity to stay positive. "In addition to being a great support system, the chapter decided they wanted to do more. Right before finals week in May 2003, they organized a car wash to raise money to help my parents with medical expenses. Cars lined the street, and the girls raised nearly \$4,000.

"This has truly been a learning experience, and I've realized that, even a century after our founding, the ideals of our founders remain intact."

— Ashley Carney Schiff, AΧ/Purdue

AΧ/Purdue sisters Ashley Carney Schiff, Rebecca Karnes Taylor and Jenn Aufmann Cate.

"Younger women will be heartened to know that our Gamma Mu lunch-bunch from the class of 1958 at the University of Maryland is an extremely active group of six Thetas, who are also travelers, gardeners, authors, painters, knitters, and, in my case, a fox-hunting innkeeper.

"Our bonds are strong and our support of each other, and interest in each others' lives, is ongoing. We also have years of history behind us.

"The friendships you make in college can be enduring and last a lifetime. There may be years in which you have little or no contact, but chances are good that you will reunite and resume and enrich your college friendships.

"Anticipate and nurture these bonds—they will mean everything to you as you crash headlong into your senior years with as much dignity and fun as you can manage.

"By the time you hit your seventies, you'll be even more active and vital than our group—and what a great time you'll have!"

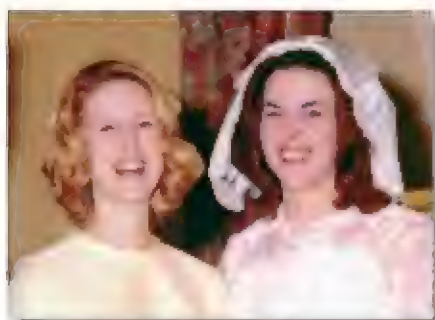
— Sandra Slack Cartwright-Brown, ΓM/Maryland

"Harriette Mitchell Huggins and I met as seventh graders in 1955, when we both lived in Jacksonville, Fla. Whether we were studying in the auditorium before classes, or sitting together at lunch, we always had something to tell each other that just couldn't wait.

"Throughout junior and senior high school, we did everything together, including seeing Elvis Presley live when he came to Jacksonville. Before leaving for college, we made plans to see each other over the holidays and promised to write often. She left for Auburn University, and I went to Florida State, both of us hoping to pledge a sorority.

"The last preference party I attended before signing my bid card was Kappa Alpha Theta, my first choice. When I picked up my bid, it was from the Beta Nu Chapter, and I was elated. Before going back to my dorm, I stopped to check my mail and

there was a letter from Harriette. She had received her bid two days earlier and wrote to tell me she was a Kappa Alpha Theta pledge (Gamma Omega). What a wonderful



Delores Lord and Harriette Mitchell Huggins at Huggins's wedding.

surprise! I immediately called her to tell her we were 'sisters.'

"Through the years, our friendship has developed a form of ESP. The most extraordinary example was when I found out I was

pregnant again and wanted to share the news with her. I was about to call, when my phone rang. It was Harriette, who had been my maid of honor a few years earlier. She was engaged and was calling to ask me to be her matron of honor!

"Even though we live in different states, we still write and call to chat about our families—especially the grandchildren. It's always as if we're continuing a conversation we started yesterday."

— Delores Lord, ΒN/Florida State



Delores Lord, ΒN/Florida State



Harriette Mitchell Huggins, ΓΩ/Auburn

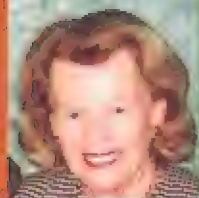
"I became deeply involved in Theta during college. But 25 years later, I was living on the Alabama coast 400 miles away from my Theta roots, and had fallen far down the rabbit hole of career (first) and raising three sons (later).

"The one remnant of college sorority life that bled into my 'now' was a UGA Theta sister who had moved to Mobile some years after I had. Although we hadn't been bosom buddies at UGA, Elizabeth Millians Diehl and I liked each other and had many friends in common. After Elizabeth moved to town, I'd occasionally see her at school and church functions and, annually, at the UGA/Auburn football game.

"New Year's Eve 2005, found me 40 miles from home, at a beach east of Mobile Bay. Around 11 AM I set off west to do some shelling and reflecting. I soon found myself completely encased by a fog so profoundly thick as to be unnerving. I could hear the surf, but couldn't see a thing. The fog persisted, but eventually I returned to the condo.

"It wasn't until late the next day that I learned just how widespread and treacherous the fog had been. There was an urgent e-mail message from Atlanta waiting for me at home. Elizabeth's husband, Rob, had been in a horrific boating collision in the Mobile delta around noon on the 31st, and was fighting for his life at the city's trauma center.

"Thirty minutes later, I found Elizabeth at the hospital, and



gradually learned more details. Rob's injuries were significant—his lungs filled with thick delta water—and there was grave concern about brain damage. He was put on a ventilator and into a medically induced coma while the trauma doctors scrambled to stabilize him and determine the extent of his injuries.

"In the days and weeks that followed, Elizabeth and I learned in a most tangible way just how true it is that Theta is for a lifetime. Word of Rob's accident spread like fire through the e-mail grapevine, which became an intense and powerful prayer chain that grew to more than 50 Thetas from our college years.

"As Elizabeth kept vigil at the hospital, I served as 'relayer' of Rob's daily status to our UGA Theta sisters, many of whom were now scattered well beyond the Georgia borders. I also was humbled to read and pass on to Elizabeth the heartfelt support and encouragement that our friends sent to her daily through their e-mail replies. The bond between us all felt as strong as in our college days, and in some ways stronger because of what was at stake.

"By all natural rights, Rob should have drowned, but didn't; should have lasting lung damage, but doesn't; and should have brain damage, but doesn't. He is now completely healed of his remaining injuries. Every time I see him, he's wearing a smile a mile wide.

"Once Rob came home, we found we didn't want to stop (our rekindled) friendships. E-mails and phone calls continued to fly back and forth and, in April, many of us gathered for a weekend reunion at a lake resort near UGA.

"Sisters came by plane and car, from up to 600 miles away. One sister commented the week after the reunion: "I feel like a missing piece of my life has been restored." We've decided to make the lake reunion a biennial tradition, and look forward to seeing more sisters in coming years.

"Since then, I've struggled to put my finger on why our Theta

friendships are like no others. Maybe it's because those friendships were forged at a key time in our lives—a time

when we lived together through struggles, mistakes, forgiveness, forbearance, hilarity, success, and, ultimately, independence.

"Together we took our first baby steps into adulthood, into a lifetime in which Theta remains a timeless link to each other."

—Jean Conner Dempsey, *ΓΔ/Georgia*

Friendships: The Wellness Factor

In addition to the feelings of acceptance and well-being that spring from reconnecting with an "old" Theta friend or discovering a link with a new one, research suggests close female friendships also can affect our physical health.

Findings from a landmark UCLA study ("UCLA Study of Friendship Among Women: An Alternative to Fight or Flight;" Gale Berkowitz, 2002) indicate spending time in the company of female friends actually can counteract stress. When stressed, women release the hormone oxytocin—one that buffers the "fight-or-flight" response and, instead, encourages a woman to "tend or befriend." And when women follow the nudge and engage in these activities, more oxytocin is released, which further counters stress and produces a calming effect. Testosterone, which men produce in high levels when stressed, seems to reduce the effects of oxytocin, while estrogen appears to enhance it.

Our friends also may help us live better. The famed Nurses' Health Study from Harvard Medical School, which tracked the health status of about 170,000 nurses over a 25-year span, found that the more friends women had, the less likely they were to develop physical impairments as they aged. Results were so significant that researchers concluded that not having close female friends or confidants was as detrimental to health as smoking or carrying extra weight.

Through her work as a certified childbirth doula—a Greek term meaning "women being of service to women"—Anne Ferrier Crook, Beta Sigma/SMU, has seen the power of female friendship in life's earliest moments as well.

"A woman with strong emotional support has a 50 percent less chance of having a Cesarean section, and is also less likely to experience postpartum depression," says Crook, who has worked in women's health for about eight years. "Friendships provide social, emotional, and physical benefits, and (childbirth experiences) are powerful examples of how women can be positively influenced by other women." ♦

An accident reunited *ΓΔ/Georgia* sisters. In April 2006, many of them joined for a reunion at Lake Oconee, including Jean Conner Dempsey, far left, and Elizabeth Millians Diehl, second from left. The "amen" kite was made for Rob Diehl's return home.



As a volunteer in Honduras,
Meghan Bullock, ZX/Johns Hopkins,
plays many roles

"I Wear Many Hats"

By Erin Kretschmar, AM/Missouri

Author's note: The portions of this article appearing in italics have been taken from Bullock's blog, posted during her current volunteer experience in Honduras.

Saturday, June 2, 2007
Thankful

A couple of months ago, I accepted a year-long volunteer position to work with Siempre Unidos, an organization that works with HIV/AIDS patients in the city of San Pedro Sula (SPS), Honduras. I have now arrived safely in SPS and am slowly getting accustomed to the life here. I've become a pro at riding the "rapiditos"—the 16-passenger vans that usually end up carrying 20-plus passengers—to and from work. I've learned how to make corn tortillas and have even swum with a swim team.

I've been learning about all the various programs and trying to figure out where I can help out the most. The doctor and RN at the clinic want me to start a series of health education talks in the patient waiting room and are also interested in me coming up with a system to track their home visits. I've also been actively participating in the meetings for Club Canterbury, a new education and prevention program that is to target university students.

I've been learning a great deal since my first day in Honduras, but I'd have to say that what I've been made aware of the most is how thankful I am for everything that God has blessed me with. For instance, every day for the past three days, the power has gone out in my apartment for at least an hour. I know it sounds clichéd, but when you're surrounded by luxuries every day such as clean air (relatively) and power, you really forget to be grateful for them!

But most of all, I am so thankful for this amazing opportunity ... I'm going to try to be good about keeping up this blog ... so stay tuned for mas noticias!

When Meghan Bullock, Zeta Chi/Johns Hopkins, left the US for a medical mission trip to Honduras in February 2007, she envisioned a week of translating Spanish to English for her mom, Kathryn Hislop Lindstrom,

Phi/Pacific, who was making the trip as a nurse practitioner.

But by the time she headed home to the United States, she already had plans to return.

Bullock's mission group, consisting of volunteers from Episcopal churches in Virginia and Arizona, held a daily clinic in the rural town of Chalmeca, Honduras. In four

days, the volunteers treated approximately 60 patients per day, many of whom suffer from HIV/AIDS or related ailments.

During this time, Bullock—who currently calls Phoenix home—learned about Siempre Unidos.

"While we were in Chalmeca, the bishop of the Honduras

Episcopal Church, Lloyd Allen, visited us," Bullock explains. "My mom and I asked Bishop Allen what other activities we might become involved in, and he told us about the church's HIV/AIDS ministry, Siempre Unidos."

This conversation led to an invitation for Bullock's mother to visit San Pedro Sula to see the Siempre Unidos clinic there. She returned to Chalmeca with a specific message for her daughter.

"That night, the first thing my mom said to me was 'I have a job for you,'" Bullock said. "So back in the States after our initial mission trip, I filled out the volunteer application form, sent it in to Siempre Unidos, and was accepted. Just a little more than three months after my first trip, I returned to Honduras as a volunteer with Siempre Unidos."

The decision to devote a year to "intern" with Siempre Unidos was an easy one for Bullock, who graduated in May 2005 with a degree in public health from Johns Hopkins.

"During my first week in Honduras, I fell in love with the country and its people. Coming back was an easy choice to make."

Since returning to the country with Siempre Unidos, Bullock maintains various daily responsibilities: giving health education talks to patients in clinic waiting rooms and visiting patients who are in the hospital or who are bed-ridden in their homes. She works with one other volunteer, and she earns a minimal stipend to cover her room and board.

"As a volunteer, I wear many hats," Bullock explains. "Siempre Unidos is focused on helping our patients in all aspects of their lives, including their health and their employment, so there is always something going on and someone who needs assistance."

Bullock also serves as an educator with Proyecto Siloe, a program that provides outreach to the country's commercial sex workers (CSW). "My colleagues and I go out at nights where the CSW work to play educational games with them, give talks, provide condoms and rapid HIV testing, bring food, and—most of all—provide overall support."

Siempre Unidos hopes to continue to provide alternative employment opportunities to the people of



Honduras. One such program, established in the organization's clinic in the city of Siguatepeque, currently provides work for 10 women who are living with or are affected by HIV.

"The women in the program at the clinic in Siguatepeque began by making rosaries and crocheted hats, and now we are expanding the project to have them make jewelry that we can sell in the States. The model is based on our preliminary employment program in San Pedro Sula, a sewing factory called Tabita Industrial."

To date, Tabita employs 15 Honduran people living with or who are affected by HIV.

"These employment programs give patients the opportunity to earn an income in a country where discrimination toward people with HIV/AIDS is rampant. That discrimination makes it very difficult for them to get or keep jobs. It also helps boost their self-esteem, showing them what they are capable of achieving."

Funds generated by the employment programs go towards Siempre Unidos' patient care, and the ultimate goal of the programs is to help the organization become self-sustaining.

Sunday, June 10, 2007

The Streets of San Pedro Sula

During the day, the streets of SPS are full of thousands of people. As I ride the rapiditos to work every morning, I pass by mothers walking their children to school, street vendors selling anything from tasty baleadas (tortillas with beans and any number of other ingredients) to used and filthy-looking stuffed animals and sheets, men with their shirts off, sweat pouring down their faces as they lift bags of veggies and fruit to put into trucks, as well as

the occasional young man in a wheelchair begging for money, not for himself, but for his wheelchair basketball team. The constant smell of exhaust and occasional stench of raw sewage permeate the air.

At night, a completely different scene takes place. The streets are deserted, the vendor stands vacant, and a feeling of emptiness pervades the atmosphere. Last week I had the opportunity to go out with Proyecto Siloe, our group that visits commercial sex workers. Siloe is the Spanish name for Shiloh, a figure in the bible whose name means "gift from God."

The differences Bullock notices in life in Honduras and life in the US are significant. "The pace of life in Honduras is much slower here. And it's a beautiful country, but there's trash everywhere, and the air is very polluted.

"I also have to think about my safety constantly. Almost everyone I know has been robbed at some point in their lives. I am always very observant of everything going on around me, and I never walk anywhere by myself when it's dark outside."

Another adventure in Honduras is transportation. "Every day, I travel back and forth to work in the 16-passenger 'rapidito' van. It's called a 'rapidito' because it goes really fast! The vans are hot, often falling apart, and tend to cram as many people into them as possible. My current record for the number of people in a rapidito



stands at 28."

Perhaps before her year in Honduras is over, that record may be broken!

Sunday, July 8, 2007

Reflection on Two Months

I had a very interesting morning today. Today's my last day of a week-long vacation, so I slept in a little, went for a run a bit later than usual and was almost attacked by a dog! I was about five blocks away from City Mall when I noticed that outside of a house up ahead, a dog actually had half his body in between two horizontal metal bars at the top of a gate. It was incredibly strange; the dog did a few "shimmies" and all of a sudden was out, barking, and heading right for me. I screamed, and fortunately the owner came out and then started beating the dog with a stick! Although my life had flashed before my eyes a few seconds prior, I did feel sorry for the dog. I'm

What Is Siempre Unidos?

In 2003, Siempre Unidos began providing effective, affordable anti-retroviral treatment to HIV-positive persons in Honduras. The organization works in close partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras and the Ministry of Health of Honduras, as well as the United States Episcopal Church and its 501(c)(3) in California.

Siempre Unidos' mission is to "... provide life-saving outpatient medical treatment (anti-retroviral medications), social support, education, and pastoral care to people living with HIV/AIDS in Honduras." In a country where one out of every 50 persons lives with HIV, the work of Siempre Unidos focuses on containing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in

the country and minimizing its impact on the community level.

Services are open to all HIV-positive persons without regard to gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation, or ability to pay. Honduras is the epicenter of the AIDS epidemic in Latin America (it has the highest rate of infection of any Spanish-speaking country.), and Siempre Unidos operates three anti-retroviral clinics in San Pedro Sula, Siguatepeque, and Roatan. These three clinics are the only non-governmental clinics where patients can receive anti-retroviral treatments from the Honduran government.

In response to discrimination against HIV-positive individuals in the workplace, Siempre Unidos volunteers strive

continued

beginning to think the stick was the reason the dog was performing his acrobatic trick in the first place!

I got back to my apartment in one piece, stretched, and hopped in the shower. In the middle of putting conditioner in my hair, the water turned off! Thankfully, a small cold drizzle came back in about 30 seconds and I was able to rinse off.

The funny thing is, things like this happen all the time here. I've been in SPS for about two months now, and am amazed at 1) how quickly the time has passed; and 2) how quickly I've actually adapted to a reality that is so completely opposite from my reality in the United States. I've become used to people staring at me as if I have four heads when I ask for no sugar in my coffee, whistles and hisses from men standing with machetes in the street, the sound of songs from Olivia Newton-John playing on the classic rock station, and, of course, my wonderful neighbor, the rooster, who likes to wake me up at five in the morning.

Tomorrow, I head back to "work" . . . (Why in quotations?) (1) This is the first job I've ever had where I've WANTED to wake up and go to work EVERY single morning. It's just THAT enjoyable; and (2) Tomorrow I get to go to Roatan, one of the Bay Islands, to help out with a brigade of nursing students visiting from Louisiana State University! It'll be a short trip; we come back Thursday afternoon, but I go back in August for a week to help out with a youth group that's coming to work at the clinic.

Her year in Honduras will be complete in May 2008, and Bullock plans to return to the US and pursue a career as a physician (following in her moth-



er's footsteps both as a Theta and as a healthcare provider). She also has ambitions to earn her master's degree in public health.

Saturday, September 15, 2007 **... other stories ...**

Time for an update! The past few weeks in SPS have been full of new experiences. The MD in the clinic has begun to utilize my skills more and more, asking me to do one-on-one consultations with patients. I'm still giving my morning health talks, although some mornings it's difficult because we either don't have a lot of patients scheduled or they all arrive at different times.

That aside, it's been a great learning experience, for me just as much as for our patients! Through educating our patients, I've been educating myself on subjects such as tuberculosis, dengue fever, lipodystrophy, and liver disorders. Although sometimes it feels like I'm pulling teeth to get patients to interact, I've realized how valuable the information I'm giving them can be.

Here are just a few examples of the misinformed health beliefs of some of our patients: 1) Coca-Cola lowers your blood pressure; 2) Stress is the direct cause of a stroke; 3) Taking a multivitamin will make you fat; 4) If you filter water with a towel, it will be okay to drink; and 5) Wearing two condoms is better than wearing one! I know I am making a difference, even if it is just in a small way, by providing basic health education.

More than anything, Bullock's experiences with Siempre Unidos and her time in Honduras have made her a more thankful individual—thankful for good health, education, and employment opportunities in her home country.

"In general, life is just more difficult in Honduras than for people in the US. Every day I am continually reminded of all the blessings in my life and am continually impacted by the courage, strength, and hope of the people with whom I work and of the friends I've made here." ♦

to create new job opportunities for the organization's clients, many of whom are female heads of households whose health depends on a reliable source of income. Efforts toward employment opportunities began in July 2005 with the opening of Tabita, a sewing workshop employing 15 persons living with or affected by HIV. Tabita produces bags, infant clothing, and hospital gowns in San Pedro Sula for sale in the United States. In 2007, Siempre Unidos also began an employment program in its clinic in Siguatepeque.

"Siempre Unidos is an incredible organization," Bullock says. "At the heart and soul of Siempre Unidos is Rev. Pascual Torres, who has been involved in HIV/AIDS care in Honduras since the 1980s. His involvement started as providing pastoral support to those dying from the disease,

and now he gives people the resources and hope with which they can continue living."

Rev. Torres and a group of volunteer board members serve Siempre Unidos, working with the Honduran people regarding treatment, educational, and employment opportunities. Volunteers include medical providers, counselors, pastors, business leaders, and individuals involved in community outreach within their hometowns in the United States. Additionally, Dr. Denise Main serves as the director of the organization's 501(c)(3) in California.

For more information, visit the organization's website at www.siempreunidos.org or contact Dr. Main (denise.main@gmail.com) or Meghan Bullock (megbullock@hotmail.com).

Denim blues—now worn anywhere and everywhere—were first worn by both alumnae and collegians in the early 1940s, when World War II literally changed the way we live. Out of loyalty and necessity, women of all ages took on new roles as their husbands, fathers, brothers, and boyfriends departed for training and combat. Women manned offices and factories, worked on farms and planted Victory Gardens. As a result, a new role model emerged in news articles and advertisements: the competent-yet-still-glamorous woman doing her job on the home front.

When peace finally came, many women retreated from the workplace. Yet they didn't give up their jeans! From overalls to dungarees, farm-store issue to designer brands, stovepipes to cut-offs, whether acid-washed, peg-legged, boot-cut, or skinny ... they're all just jeans. The well-worn ones feel the best and the basic color hasn't changed, yet fashion trends keep us seeking the next new blues.

by Mary Edith Estes Arnold, AM/Missouri, Fraternity archivist

dungarees ... denim ... jeans ...



Whatever They're Called, Thetas Love 'Em



In Her Own Words

Q&A With a Theta of Note

Connie Shillingburg, FO/New Mexico, doesn't know the meaning of the word "retirement." Although she is officially retired from her first career as a teacher of history, Shillingburg has embarked on a second career as an historic character interpreter. Portraying notable women, including Queen Elizabeth I, Czarina Alexandra, and Queen Victoria, she has performed in Oklahoma, Texas, and Florida.



Q How did you become a historical character interpreter?

A For 12 years, I taught US history to eighth graders, notable for being difficult to teach, as they often think they know everything. Girls are interested in boys, friendships, clothes, and music. Boys are a bit behind them in maturity, but they often like to show off and are not too motivated to work. (If I have any former students out there reading this, of course I am not speaking about you!) To make history more interesting, I persuaded my principal to pay for re-enactors who portrayed Civil War soldiers and a couple from the early West. The students loved it, and it inspired me to dress up as a Pilgrim lady

When I began teaching high school, I brought in people who did Henry Ford, Senator Joe McCarthy, and Eleanor Roosevelt. I added a Puritan poet, Anne Bradstreet, and an Italian Renaissance lady, both of whom I portrayed myself.

Q Of the historical figures you portray, which do you most identify with?

A Identification with the person you are portraying is important for a performance. But I have to admit to a special fondness for Elizabeth. She was so complex, successful and yet alone, in a fascinating period of history. However, I do know I am not really the queen, though my husband has felt it necessary to remind me once or twice.

Q Can you tell us a cure for stage fright?

A Excitement before you perform is a good thing. It gets you "up" for your audience. However, there is no substitute for preparation. If you know your subject, you are ready and confident. When I put on my costume and wig, I try to "become" that person.

Q What word or phrase do you love?

A I love to say about history, "If it didn't happen that way, it should have." For instance, Queen Victoria is known for saying, "We are not amused." Actually, she may never have said it, or at the most, she said it once. But it is something she should have said if she really didn't! It fits her!

Q What word or phrase do you hate?

A Whatever! Granted this is a phrase primarily used by the young, but at times it is thought by older people. To me, it

means that the person doesn't care to express his or her knowledge, or one finds the subject of insignificant importance to consider. I love open, questioning minds of all ages.

Q What talent would you most like to have?

A I could never master a cartwheel or stand on my head. This bothers me less than it once did. Musical and artistic talents fascinate me. However, I have no talent for either, as almost anyone who knows me can attest

Q What do you consider your greatest achievement?

A It is a difficult question. I would have to say being married for 47 years to a wonderful man and raising three great daughters would be at the top of the list.

Q What is your favorite destination?

A I love everywhere I travel. The great cities of the world will always be favorites—London, Paris, Rome, New York. Our last foreign travel was to Egypt. What incredible history and sights! Most of all, I believe my favorites are the Hawaiian Islands and my birthplace, the mountains of Northern New Mexico!

Q Where would you most like to live?

A I am living where I would most like to live, in Edmond, Okla. It is a beautiful city just north of Oklahoma City. This is where my husband, children, and grandchildren live. I have outstanding friends there who support me and put up with me.

Q Who is your favorite fictional character?

A Scout from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee is certainly one. She tells the story from a child's eyes. She innately knows right and wrong. Civil rights will happen with her generation when she grows up.

Q What do you value most in your friends?

A I have been blessed with wonderful friends who know me and like me anyway. They support me in all things. When I am successful, they are happy for me. When things are bad, they are there for me. These are the most valuable traits in friends, I believe. Plus they all love to laugh, and I do, too!

Q What is your favorite Theta memory?

A From time to time, I think back on initiations, and the special feeling that came with all of us singing, "Remember the black and gold,

Dear/Remember the kite we fly/ Remember when you are old, Dear/ That Theta's with you until you die." It still brings a tear to my eye. What a beautiful memory! ♦



Founders Day and Friendship Fund Message

Each Founders Day, we who are members of Kappa Alpha Theta celebrate. We celebrate our beginning at tiny Indiana Asbury in 1870, and we commemorate our founders, four young women who made their dream of a supportive, caring sisterhood into reality.

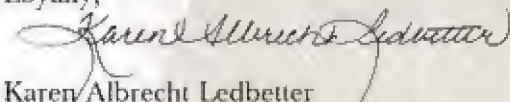
Did Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie grasp the magnitude of what they had done? Did they realize that they were paving the way for generations of women to share a sisterhood of heart, mind, and spirit with other women of common purpose? Did they imagine the incredible potential of the Fraternity they had created?

I like to think that they could envision some of what we have become. I like to think they knew that as each new member promised to uphold the ideals of Kappa Alpha Theta, our Fraternity would become stronger. I like to think they knew that Theta would appeal to women of promise, and would help them fulfill their possibility for social, intellectual, and moral growth.

Each Founders Day, I also think that Bettie, Alice, Hannah, and Bettie would be so proud of our Friendship Fund. Through this fund, which was created more than 80 years ago, we give tangible form to our sisterhood. By giving monetary gifts in situations of severe financial hardship, catastrophic illness, natural disaster, and urgent family crisis, we offer a promise of daylight to Thetas experiencing life's darkest moments.

Fraternity tradition calls for us to donate to the Friendship Fund on Founders Day. By celebrating our commitment to Kappa Alpha Theta in this way, we fulfill our promise to serve and care for one another, to bring hope and comfort in time of trouble. And we prove that Theta love holds timeless through all sorrows.

Loyally,


Karen Albrecht Ledbetter
FT/Tulsa
Fraternity President

Portrait: Bettie Locke Hamilton, A/DePauw, Founder, 1870

friendship fund

Formation of the Friendship Fund was recommended at the 1926 Grand Convention; a few months later, Grand Council suggested starting the fund through contributions at Founders Day celebrations. An important ongoing tradition is the secrecy surrounding the giving of gifts from the fund. Two members write on behalf of a sister, and the Friendship Fund committee determines the award amount. The requesters remain anonymous, and all records are confidential.

Today, most contributions to the Friendship Fund continue to be made through Founders Day gifts. The suggested contribution is \$1 per year of Theta membership. The Friendship Fund is under the management of the Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation, so all gifts to it are tax-deductible. Checks, made out to Kappa Alpha Theta Foundation with "Friendship Fund" noted on the memo line, may be sent to Foundation Headquarters, 8740 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

WHAT DO THETAS THINK?

A RECENT SURVEY ASKED JUST THAT QUESTION

More than 130,000 members of Kappa Alpha Theta live across the US, Canada, and dozens of other countries. Of course, as Thetas, we all share common bonds. But we are also different people, from different backgrounds and in differing circumstances. Does that affect how we think about our Fraternity, our philanthropy, our Foundation?

What **do** Thetas think? We wanted to know! So earlier this year, we sent electronic surveys to all members for whom we had good e-mail addresses. Responses came from Thetas from Adelphi University to Yale University, from graduates of the

1930s to the 2000s. Respondents represented private, public, and religious schools from California to Washington, DC; from Florida to Vermont; from Michigan to Texas.

Feedback from the surveys will be used by the Fraternity and our marketing partner, Richard Harrison Bailey/The Agency, to develop a comprehensive Fraternity/Foundation public relations program. The first step in that program—an updated visual

identity and tagline to accurately reflect and effectively convey the essence of Kappa Alpha Theta—will be unveiled at Grand Convention 2008.



Various Survey Results

- 57% of collegians said they plan to be involved in the Fraternity after graduation.
- 44% of alumnae said they'd like to be more involved in Theta.
- 79% of the respondents have visited the Theta website, but only 22% are aware that the website includes an electronic version of *The Magazine*.
- 59% of college respondents said they are the first in their family to join a women's Greek organization, and 54% had not planned to join one when they initially entered college.
- 23% of the respondents rated "children's issues" as their top philanthropic concern, while 70% were familiar with CASA and its mission.
- 88% of the respondents said that Theta ritual is very meaningful to them, and rated ritual the most meaningful of Theta symbols.

THETA HONORED BY NPC FOUNDATION

DR. NANCY LUSK ZIMPHER, AT/OHIO STATE



Dr. Nancy Lusk Zimpher, Alpha Gamma/Ohio State, president of the University of Cincinnati, was announced as the 2007 recipient of the Women in

Higher Education Achievement Award at the biennial meeting of the National Panhellenic Conference in Chicago.

Zimpher is the 25th president and first female president of the university. She has led UC, a major public research university, through an unprecedented academic planning process involving a wide spectrum of university stakeholders and resulting in a strategic vision for the school. Under her leadership, the university has improved enrollment, student satisfac-

tion, and national rankings. President Zimpher has also worked very hard to connect UC to its community, serving on numerous local boards.

The Women in Higher Achievement Award (WHAA) recognizes an outstanding woman who promotes high ideals and has achieved significant success in her chosen field. Award winners model achievement for college and life-long learners within the National Panhellenic Conference member organizations. The WHAA is funded by the National Panhellenic Conference Foundation, through an endowment established by Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority and its national foundation.

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For questions or more information, contact
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